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Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Second meeting
Geneva, 19–23 November 2018
Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda*

Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties: capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

Submissions and reports received in relation to alternative technologies and technology transfer as referred to in paragraph 4 of article 14

Note by the secretariat

1. Paragraph 4 of article 14 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, on capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer, provides that the Conference of the Parties will, by its second meeting and thereafter on a regular basis, consider information on existing initiatives and progress made in relation to alternative technologies; consider the needs of parties, particularly developing country parties, for alternative technologies; and identify challenges experienced by parties, particularly developing country parties, in technology transfer. The Conference of the Parties should do so taking into account submissions and reports from parties, including those as provided for in article 21, and information provided by other stakeholders.

2. In response to the consideration of the issue at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Geneva from 24 to 29 September 2017, the secretariat sought submissions and reports from parties and other stakeholders on the above-mentioned issues as referred to in paragraph 4 of article 14.

3. Submissions were received from three parties, namely Japan, Nigeria and the United States of America, and two non-governmental organizations, namely the International POPs Elimination Network and the Zero Mercury Working Group. The submissions have been compiled in document UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/5 and are also available on the website of the Minamata Convention at: www.mercuryconvention.org/Meetings/Intersessionalnbsp;work/tabid/6325/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

4. The submissions received provide an overview of a range of alternative technologies that have been developed to address mercury issues as well as examples of how they have been used, including in the context of technical assistance and capacity-building activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. One developing-country party highlighted in its submission areas where the need for technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity-building programmes have been identified.

* UNEP/MC/COP.2/1.

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Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

5. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the information provided in the submissions received, and draw the attention of parties and relevant stakeholders, especially those providing capacity-building and technical assistance pursuant to article 14, to the alternative technologies, existing initiatives and activities mentioned in the submissions as well as to the needs and challenges described therein. The Conference of the Parties may also wish to consider the issue further at its fourth meeting, taking into account any further submissions and reports from parties and information provided by other stakeholders, compiled by the secretariat, and reported by parties pursuant to article 21.